

The OREGON POLITICAL FIELD GUIDE

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President

Oregon once had a well-earned reputation as the most Republican of western states; in many of its elections, it was a holdout even against the New Deal sweep of the 30s. That has changed. It became a bipartisan state in the mid-50s, and stayed so through various shifts until the most recent decade, when Democrats showed clear signs of pulling firmly ahead.

Created by a Democratic administration and Congress in 1859, Oregon cast its first electoral votes in 1860 for Republican Abraham Lincoln, and repeated in 1864. It continued to vote for every Republican nominee for president through 1908. The chain broke with the unusual election of 1912, when William Howard Taft and Theodore Roosevelt split the Republican vote and Woodrow Wilson won Oregon. But Oregon returned to the Republican column in 1916, and stayed there through the 20s. Like most of the rest of the nation, Oregon switched to Democrat Franklin Roosevelt for his four elections, but then turned to Republican Thomas Dewey in 1948 and stayed a Republican electoral state (with the lone exception of the 1964 Lyndon Johnson landslide) through the Reagan years. Even after Democrats had begun winning a substantial number of offices within the state, Oregon remained Republican for the presidential.

And then, somewhere in the mid-80s, Oregon commenced a gradual but definite shift toward the Democrats. The first clear evidence was the Oregon win for Democrat Michael Dukakis; one Democrat active in that time noted that national and state Democrats that year revamped their presidential campaign efforts. Since then whether in close elections (2000) or near-landslides (2008), Democrats have been prevailing.

	Democrat		Republican	
2008	Barack Obama	1,037,291 56.75%	John McCain	738,475 40.40%
2004	John Kerry	943,163 51.35%	George W Bush	866,831 47.19%
2000	Al Gore	720,342 47.01%	George W Bush	713,577 46.46%
1996	Bill Clinton	649,641 47.15%	Robert Dole	538,152 39.06%
1992	Bill Clinton	621,314 42.48%	George Bush	475,757 32.53%
1988	Michael Dukakis	616,206 51.28%	George Bush	560,126 46.61%
1984	Walter Mondale	536,479 43.74%	Ronald Reagan	685,700 55.91%
1980	Jimmy Carter	456,890 38.67%	Ronald Reagan	571,044 48.33%
1976	Jimmy Carter	490,407 47.62%	Gerald Ford	492,120 47.78%
1972	George McGovern	392,760 42.33%	Richard Nixon	486,686 52.45%
1968	Hubert Humphrey	358,866 43.78%	Richard Nixon	408,433 49.83%
1964	Lyndon Johnson	501,017 63.72%	Barry Goldwater	282,779 35.96%
1960	John Kennedy	367,402 47.32%	Richard Nixon	408,060 52.56%

Counties. For all their recent wins, few Democrats in recent times have actually won a majority of Oregon’s counties. About half of Oregon’s counties (depending on how you count) are small-population counties east of the Cascades, and all lean Republican, most of them very strongly. Several southwest Oregon counties (most notably Douglas, Josephine and Curry) have similar patterns. When Democratic wins have occurred, they usually have involved strong bases in Multnomah and Lane counties, wins in several smaller counties and sufficiently strong votes in the large suburban counties of Washington and Clackamas to offset the large Republican geography.

In 1964, Democrat Lyndon Johnson won 34 of Oregon’s 36 counties, all except for Malheur and Josephine.

Multnomah County last voted Republican for president in 1960, for Richard Nixon – though only barely (Nixon won 50.5%). But Kennedy was by no means wiped out in Oregon. He won 13 counties, *all* of them outside the Willamette Valley and some of them now strongly Republican. They were Wallowa, Union, Baker, Morrow, Crook, Wasco, Douglas, Curry, Coos, Tillamook, Lincoln, Clatsop and Columbia. He won more counties in losing that year than any of the Democrats who have won since 1988 except for Barack Obama in 2008, who tied him.

Democratic votes for president.

	2008	2004	2000	1996	1992	1988	1984	1980	1976	1972	1968
Baker											
Benton	■	■	■	■	■	■					
Clackamas	■			■	■						
Clatsop	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Columbia	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Coos				■	■	■			■	■	■
Crook									■		
Curry					■				■		
Deshutes					■				■		
Douglas											
Gilliam				■							
Grant											
Harney											
Hood River	■	■	■	■	■	■					
Jackson	■				■						
Jefferson					■						
Josephine											
Klamath											
Lake											
Lane	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■		
Lincoln	■	■	■	■	■	■			■		
Linn									■		
Malheur											
Marion	■			■							
Morrow				■					■		

RON WYDEN, D-Portland

Office: wyden.senate.gov

Campaign: <http://www.standtallforamerica.com/>

Background: Co-founder, Oregon chapter, Greay Panthers. Director, Oregon Legal Services for the Elderly. University of California-Santa Barbara. Stanford University. University of Oregon, School of Law.

Political: Elected to U.S. House 1980, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994. Elected to U.S. Senate in special election 1996, 1998, 2004, 2010.



Senate-Junior: Jeff Merkley (D)

For a while in the last decade, Oregon seemed to be continuing its pattern of letting two senators spent long stretches in the Senate. Up to the mid-90s, those senators had been Mark Hatfield (1966-96) and Robert Packwood (1968-1995). (Before Hatfield, who won the seat in 1966, no one had held it so long; the closest was another Republican, Charles McNary, who held it for about 26 years. The collection of senators in this place before Hatfield included 11 Republicans and 10 Democrats.)

They were followed, within months of one another, by Democrat Ron Wyden and Republican Gordon Smith, and after a decade or so, with strong re-elections behind them, they appeared to be settling in for a while, developing a much-noted partnership in the process.

Then 2008 happened, and Smith was ousted – a major indicator of changing politics in Oregon. The partnership that resulted was probably as close but required less diplomacy, because Jeff Merkley was a Democrat usually not far in view from Wyden.

His background was quite different from Wyden's. He was an Oregon native (born, as he often liked to point out, at Myrtle Creek, but raised mostly in the Portland area), and not an attorney – but an analyst in the Department of Defense and nuclear and some other policies. Returning to Portland in 1991, he led the local Habitat for Humanity organization for a time, became involved with other organizations and ran for the Oregon House in 1998, from a southeast Portland district. He moved into House leadership in 2004, and in 2006, after Democrats had gained control of the chamber, he was elected speaker.

That lasted only one term, since he decided (after former Governor John Kitzhaber and members of the state House delegation passed) to oppose Smith in 2008. He had first to get past a highly competitive primary; Portland attorney and activist Steve Novick also filed, and their contest was high-energy and intensive for months. Both had numerous backers, but

abruptly quit, and in 2011 he was accused of an unwanted sexual encounter. He resigned on August 3 that year.

That triggered a special election, or rather two – primary election on the normal early November date, and a general concluding on January 31. Most of the primary attention went to the Democrats, where three prominent officeholders filed: State Labor Commissioner (and former Washington County legislator) Brad Avakian, Senator Suzanne Bonamici and Representative Brad Witt. Bonamici was the easy winner, taking 49,721 votes (65.58% in a field of eight candidates). The Republican (winning in a field of five) was Rob Cornilles, who had lost to Wu the year before.

PARTY REGISTRATION Noted in November of each year.

	<i>Dem</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Rep</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Total</i>
2010	179,281	42.56%	127,713	30.31%	92,166	21.88%	421,287
2006	150,417	38.50%	135,700	34.74%	92,715	23.73%	390,646
2002	136,738	37.98%	132,683	36.86%	80,311	22.31%	359,980

GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

	Democrat			Republican		
2012*	Suzanne Bonamici	89,896	54.36%	Rob Cornilles	64,725	39.14%
2010	David Wu	160,357	54.82%	Rob Cornilles	122,858	42.00%
2008	David Wu	237,567	72.40%	-	0	0.00%
2006	David Wu	169,409	62.94%	Derrick Kitts	90,904	33.77%
2004	David Wu	203,771	57.76%	Ameri Goli	135,164	38.31%
2002	David Wu	149,215	62.76%	Jim Greenfield	80,917	34.03%

*special election, January 2012

SUZANNE BONAMICI, D-Beaverton

Office: bonamici.house.gov

Campaign: www.suzannebonamiciforcongress.com

Background: Attorney, private practice. Attorney, Federal Trade Commission. Lane Community College. University of Oregon; UO law school.

Political: Elected to Oregon House, 2006. Appointed to Oregon Senate, 2010. Elected to Oregon Senate, 2008, 2010. Elected to U.S. House, January 2012 (special election). Candidate for re-election, 2012.



included Multnomah and Washington (the two largest), Lane, Benton, Lincoln, Clatsop, Hood River and (ordinarily) Columbia.

The 2010 gubernatorial contest was notably dramatic in that sense.

Kitzhaber won by 22,238 votes statewide. His margin over Dudley in Multnomah County alone was more than five times that (121,242); A mere modest win in Multnomah would have cost Kitzhaber the election. Multnomah aside, Kitzhaber won just six counties: Washington (narrowly), Lincoln, Lane, Hood River, Clatsop and Benton. He lost third-largest Clackamas (83,516 to 69,250), which had been trending Democratic, and normally Democratic Columbia County (10,302 to 8,973). His long-time home and legislative base, Douglas County, went for Dudley nearly two to one (27,438 to 14,072).

GENERAL ELECTIONS

Democrat			Republican		
2010	John Kitzhaber	715,525 49.37%	Chris Dudley	694,287	47.90%
2006	Ted Kulongoski	699,786 50.83%	Ron Saxton	589,748	42.84%
2002	Ted Kulongoski	618,004 49.14%	Kevin Mannix	581,785	46.26%
1998	John Kitzhaber	717,061 64.55%	Bill Sizemore	334,001	30.07%
1994	John Kitzhaber	622,083 50.94%	Denny Smith	517,874	42.41%
1990	Barbara Roberts	508,749 45.75%	Dave Frohnmayer	444,646	39.98%
1986	Neil Goldschmidt	549,456 52.01%	Norma Paulus	506,989	47.90%
1982	Ted Kulongoski	374,316 36.90%	Vic Atiyeh	639,841	63.09%
1978	Robert Straub	409,411 45.10%	Vic Atiyeh	498,452	54.90%
1974	Robert Straub	444,812 57.80%	Vic Atiyeh	324,751	42.20%
1970	Robert Straub	293,892 44.10%	Tom McCall	369,964	55.52%
1966	Robert Straub	305,008 44.67%	Tom McCall	377,346	55.26%
1962	Robert Thornton	310,359 45.48%	Mark Hatfield	345,497	50.63%

JOHN KITZHABER, D-Portland

Office: www.sos.state.or.us

Campaign: www.johnkitzhaber.com

Background: Physician. Emergency room physician, Roseburg, 1974-88. President, Estes Park Institute.

Political: Dartmouth College. University of Oregon Medical School. Elected to state House, 1978. Elected to Oregon Senate, 1980, 1984, 1988. Elected Senate president, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991. Elected governor, 1994, 1998, 2010.



Westlund was already a cancer survivor by that point, but in early 2010 he had an aggressive recurrence, and died on March 7 that year. Kulongoski appointed as his replacement Ted Wheeler, a finance industry executive who four years before had been elected chair of the Multnomah County Commission. Wheeler stood for election later that year (to fill the rest of the four-year term), and defeated Republican State Senator Chris Telfer, who represented Westlund's Bend-area district.

Up for a full term in 2012, Wheeler was unopposed for re-election as of the candidate filing deadline.

Democrat		Republican			
2010 Ted Wheeler	721,795	53.01%	Chris Telfer	571,105	41.94%
2008 Ben Westlund	847,590	51.22%	Allen Alley	750,484	45.36%
2004 Randall Edwards	889,974	52.94%	Jeff Caton	688,551	40.96%
2000 Randall Edwards	705,273	50.31%	Jon Kvistad	593,411	42.33%
1996 Jim Hill	676,872	52.26%	Bev Clarno	575,047	44.40%

TED WHEELER, D-Portland

Office: www.ost.state.or.us

Campaign: www.tedwheeler.com

Background: Financial officer, Bank of America, Copper Mountain Trust. Stanford University. Columbia University. Harvard University.

Political: Elected chair, Multnomah County Commission, 2006. Appointed state treasurer, 2010. Elected state treasurer, 2010.



Attorney General: John Kroger (D)

Up in 2012. Candidates: Dwight Holton-D, Ellen Rosenblum-D

The office of attorney general in most states is both elective and as old as the state itself, but not in Oregon (one of five where that is true). Oregon had been around for more than three decades when, in 1891, the legislature decided to create a Department of Justice (not to be confused, though it often is, with the Judicial Department, which is the courts) and an attorney general to lead it. The first was George Chamberlain, appointed to the job by the governor; he lasted three years (and later became governor himself).

There have been 16 Oregon attorneys general in all. The longest-serving was Republican Isaac Van Winkle, from 1920-43. Both parties have had turns at it, but it has been in Democratic hands since Ted Kulongoski won it in 1992. After he departed, House Speaker Hardy Myers won it in 1996, and held it for three terms.

1986	D	31 ■	29	17 ■	13
1988	D	32 ■	28	19 ■	11
1990	D	28	32 ■	20 ■	10
1992	D	28	32 ■	16 ■	14
1994	D	26	34 ■	11	19 ■
1996	D	29	31 ■	10	20 ■
1998	D	25	35 ■	13	17 ■
2000	D	28	32 ■	14	16 ■
2002	D	25	35 ■	15	15
2004	D	27	33 ■	18 ■	12
2006	D	31 ■	29	18 ■	11
2008	D	36 ■	24	18 ■	12
2010	D	30	30	16 ■	14

Seats switching party control 2004-10

Changes in 2002 not listed because districts changed that year with redistricting.

Major county noted. Winner in party shift noted.

There were two mid-term party switches since they did not constitute voter changes. Senator Ben Westlund, last elected to the Senate as a Republican, switched to become first an independent and then a Democrat; his Deschutes County seat reverted to Republican in the next election. Senator Avel Gordly, elected as a Democrat, switched to independent; when she opted out at the next election, the seat remained Democratic.

Seven districts switched twice – in one direction, then back again. None switched three times.

This list notes the direction of the shift, and the winner that year.

Senate 3	Jackson	2004	R > D	Alan Bates
Senate 5	Lincoln	2004	R > D	Joann Verger
House 10	Lincoln	2004	R > D	Jean Cowan
House 14	Lane	2006	R > D	Chris Edwards
House 21	Marion	2006	R > D	Brian Clem
House 22	Marion	2004	R > D	Betty Comp
House 29	Washington	2004	R > D	Chuck Riley
House 29	Washington	2010	D > R	Katie Eyre Brewer
House 30	Washington	2006	R > D	David Edwards
House 30	Washington	2010	D > R	Shawn Lindsay
House 35	Washington	2004	R > D	Larry Galizio
Senate 20	Clackamas	2010	D > R	Alan Olsen

Voter registration advantages

Reflects the gap between voter registration, by legislative district, of the two major parties. The numbers were posted for February 2012, after redistricting.

Incumbents reflect the seat's occupant after the 2010 general election.

Senate District	Incumbent	Dem	D %	Rep	R %	All	D lead
22	Shields-D	49,186	62.64%	6,399	8.15%	0	54.49%
	Rosenbaum-D						
21	D	46,210	56.89%	10,909	13.43%	81,226	43.46%
23	Dingfelder-D	43,919	57.61%	10,927	14.33%	76,238	43.28%
18	Burdick-D	37,242	50.44%	16,551	22.42%	73,838	28.02%
24	Monroe-D	25,797	45.32%	13,908	24.43%	56,922	20.89%
17	Hayward-D	30,726	44.57%	18,521	26.87%	68,941	17.70%
7	Edwards-D	31,852	43.39%	21,128	28.78%	73,407	14.61%
14	Hass-D	28,524	43.08%	19,373	29.26%	66,210	13.82%
6	Beyer-D	29,211	42.59%	20,438	29.80%	68,593	12.79%
4	Prozanski-D	33,506	43.19%	23,824	30.71%	77,587	12.48%
11	Courtney-D	19,154	41.77%	13,516	29.47%	45,860	12.29%
25	Anderson-D	23,707	41.31%	16,825	29.32%	57,393	11.99%
19	Devlin-D	34,737	43.64%	25,431	31.95%	79,598	11.69%
16*	Johnson-D	29,867	41.40%	22,528	31.23%	72,147	10.17%
8	Morse-R	28,257	41.48%	21,335	31.32%	68,129	10.16%
5*	Verger-D	27,807	41.52%	21,142	31.57%	66,978	9.95%
Totals	-	824,650	40.82%	642,538	31.80%	2,020,281	9.01%
15	Starr-R	21,573	37.89%	17,996	31.61%	56,932	6.28%
26	Thomsen-R	25,612	38.53%	21,725	32.68%	66,473	5.85%
3	Bates-D	28,698	39.17%	24,846	33.91%	73,260	5.26%
20	Olsen-R	28,024	38.10%	26,525	36.06%	73,550	2.04%
10	Winters-R	24,715	36.58%	26,241	38.84%	67,562	-2.26%
27	Telfer-R	24,648	33.70%	27,032	36.96%	73,147	-3.26%
13*	George-R	18,527	34.46%	21,594	40.17%	53,758	-5.71%
12*	Boquist-R	12,809	34.14%	15,239	40.61%	37,524	-6.48%
9	Girod-R	21,644	32.15%	28,068	41.70%	67,314	-9.54%
1	Kruse-R	23,162	31.72%	31,392	42.99%	73,023	-11.27%
29	Nelson-R	17,312	28.65%	26,106	43.20%	60,436	-14.55%
30	Ferrioli-R	19,203	29.52%	29,034	44.64%	65,044	-15.11%
2	Atkinson-R	20,441	28.09%	31,972	43.94%	72,769	-15.85%
28	Whitsett-R	18,580	27.36%	32,013	47.15%	67,903	-19.78%

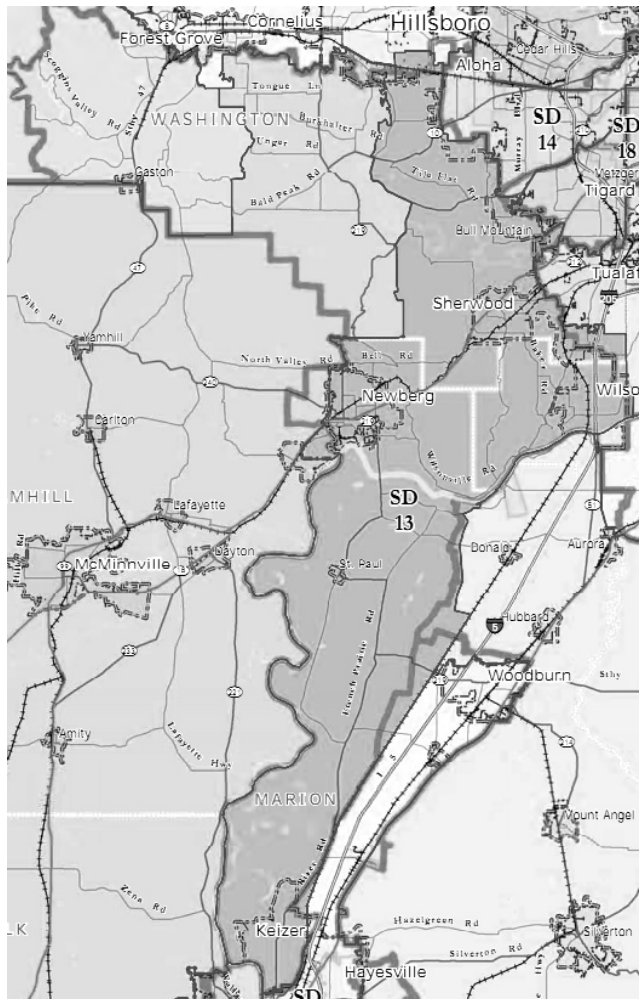
13th Senate District

AREA All: none. Part: Washington, Yamhill, Marion. Communities: Keizer (part), Newberg, Wilsonville (part), Hillsboro (part), Tigard (part), Sherwood, St. Paul.

POPULATION 129,542 Previous district: 141,274 (+10.63% from target). Increase 00s: +23.31% (4th largest). New Minority: 21.17% (13th largest). New Hispanic: 12.95%.

REPUBLICAN 2012 (Feb) R 40.17% D 34.46%
REPUBLICAN 2010 (Nov) R 40.70% D 33.86%
 Margin change in 00s: D +6.10% (15th largest)

Senate 13 is an odd mix of mid-sized city, suburbs and rural – what looks like a mashup of leftovers from the Marion, Washington and Yamhill county areas. Its largest city is Keizer, the northern adjoining (and more conservative) neighbor of Salem, but a relatively lightly populated rural area (which is heavily farmed) nearly half the length of the district separates it from the second largest, Newberg, which is a few miles over the hills from the third largest, Sherwood. Most of Wilsonville is also in the district, and between them these four account for most of the district’s population. But the rural areas add a slice too, and so



This is dynamic, shifting terrain. 20 years ago it was solidly Republican, and it is still represented by a Republican senator. But it has been moving into Democratic territory, and by 2010 Democratic registration had overtaken the Republican. But for the time being, at least, this is (along with both of its Hose districts) one of the few Oregon districts with a Republican legislator in a registration-Democratic district. This area, in fact, performs better for Republicans (or, the minority in any part of Oregon) than any other district in the state.

REDISTRICTING Only slight changes.

■ **Added:** As in most of Washington County, the emphasis has been on compacting districts, not adding to their geographic reach. A few lightly-populated tracts were added, however: southwest of Cornelius, northwest of Forest Grove, southeast of Banks, north of North Plains.

■ **Deleted** some tracts south of Hillsboro near Highway 8, and the Rockcreek area (sent to District 17).

PARTY REGISTRATION (November of each year)

	<i>Dem</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Rep</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Total</i>
2010	24,971	39.12%	20,277	31.77%	15,209	23.83%	63,826
2006	20,463	35.08%	21,372	36.64%	14,687	25.18%	58,336
2002	18,335	35.00%	20,393	38.93%	12,342	23.56%	52,380

ELECTIONS Up in 2014.

Sen 15 Democrat	Republican
2010 Chuck Riley 19,533 47.74%	Bruce Starr 21,382 52.26%
2006 John Napolitano 16,308 44.95%	Bruce Starr 19,973 55.05%
2002 Ermine Todd 10,283 34.70%	Bruce Starr 18,364 61.98%

PRIMARIES The lone primary in the last decade came in 2010, when Chuck Riley, a House member, and Travis Comfort contested for the Democratic nomination. Riley won easily (6,038/77.22%), but lost the general.

BRUCE STARR, R-Hillsboro

State: www.leg.state.or.us/starrb

Campaign: www.brucestarr.org/

Background: Founder, Cutting Edge NW, government consulting. Small business, works with the Portland Business Alliance and Pacific Northwest International Trade Association. Portland State University.



Political: Elected state House 1998, 2000. Elected state Senate 2002, 2006, 2010. Announced campaign for state labor commissioner, 2012.

Deschutes

AREA Communities: Bend, Redmond, Sisters, La Pine, Terrebonne, Tumalo. 3,018 sm.

POPULATION 157,733. Increase 00s: +36.7% (th largest). Minority: 11.7% (59th largest). Hispanic: 7.4%.

REPUBLICAN 2012 (Feb) R 38.35% D 32.98%
REPUBLICAN 2010 (Nov) R 38.69% D 33.98%.
 Margin change in 00s: R +1.40%

Deschutes has been Oregon’s fastest-growing county, not only accounted for at Bend but at Redmond and Sisters and La Pine as well. Its location in the high desert near the base of the Cascade Mountains has made it an outdoors mecca and a popular relocation target. Then the floor fell out of the housing market, and Deschutes has been struggling – but beginning to make some progress – since.

Deschutes traditionally has been Republican, and still is. But the margins are not what they once were, and Bend itself has become competitive.

PRECINCTS The geographically large rural precincts, such as 10, 14, 23, 38, 39, 45 and 49, are all strongly Republican. Precincts in the fastest-growing parts of Bend, toward the east and north, tend Republican. Sisters (30) has tilted Republican, but remains competitive. LaPine (40, 50, 52) similarly tilts Republican, but modestly. Of the major communities here, Redmond (17, 28, 29, 36) is considerably more Republican than the others.

Countering this is the area (precincts 1, 4, 7, 8, 27 especially) around central and west-central Bend. These are Democratic precincts, and in some races by large margins. In 2010, for example, in a U.S. Senate race almost evenly split in this county, Democrat Ron Wyden won big in precincts 1, 4, 7, 27, and 32, while Republican Jim Huffman won big in 18, 19, 23 and 31. Similarly in the governor’s race, Democrat Kitzhaber won in 1, 4, 7, 27, 32.

PARTY REGISTRATION The traditional rural-Democratic registration edge in Deschutes evaporated by the mid-80s as Bend-area growth took hold and the county turned more Republican. That trend line seems to have peaked around the turn of the century, and the partisan gap has softened since – from a 10.6% gap in 2002 to 4.7% in 2010. Republicans remain the lead party in Deschutes, but by less than had been the case in 20 years.

	Dem	%	Rep	%	N/A	%	Total
2010	30,334	33.98%	34,541	38.69%	18,221	20.41%	89,279
2006	26,301	31.74%	34,802	42.00%	18,761	22.64%	82,857
2002	23,215	32.02%	30,906	42.63%	16,049	22.14%	72,500

PRESIDENTIAL With only the usual exceptions (Johnson in 1964, Carter in 1976, Clinton in 1992) Deschutes has stayed in the Republican

2006	6,192	41.20%	5,239	34.86%	3,156	21.00%	15,029
2002	6,276	42.41%	5,170	34.94%	2,938	19.86%	14,797

PRESIDENTIAL The presidential default in Tillamook has been Democratic, but exceptions have not been rare. While Democrat Obama took Tillamook with a solid margin in 2008, Republican Bush won it on both of his two races (2000, 2004). Republican Reagan won it in 1984 (though not 1980), as did Richard Nixon in 1972 and Eisenhower in both elections. The distinction seems to be that Republicans needed a national landslide to win Tillamook in elections past, but not necessarily in more recent years.

	<i>Dem</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Rep</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Total</i>
2008	7,072	53.64%	5,757	43.66%	13,185
2004	6,750	48.59%	7,003	50.41%	13,891

GOVERNOR Tillamook is one of the most split counties in Oregon in its voting patterns for governor – over the decades, neither party seems to have a decisive advantage, even though Democrats have a registration edge. Democrats did win here from 1986 through 1998. Republican Mannix won in 2006, then Democrat Kulongoski in 2006, then Republican Dudley in 2010. None of these winners won by enormous margins.

	<i>Dem</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Rep</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Total</i>
2010	5,072	46.06%	5,604	50.89%	11,012
2006	5,356	49.51%	4,745	43.86%	10,819
2002	5,025	48.18%	4,818	46.20%	10,429

COUNTY Non-partisan: Commission (3), district attorney, assessor, clerk, sheriff, treasurer, surveyor.

Clerk: Tassi O'Neil, Tillamook County Clerk, 201 Laurel Ave., Tillamook 97141. (503) 842-3402

Com1						
2008	Charles Hurliman	6,195	50.67%	Lisa Phipps	6,031	49.33%
Com2						
2008	Mark Labhart (PR)	6,661	100.00%	-	0	0.00%
Com3						
2010	Tim Josi	4,187	64.28%	Thomas Donohue	1,707	26.19%
2006	Tim Josi (D)	7,259		Thomas Donohue	3,086	

1997-2004, opting not to seek a third term. The two main competitors for the job both had Democratic background: Kitty Piercy, a former state representative, defeated in the primary Nancy Nathanson (51.56% - 45.69%), who soon would become a state representative.

Four years later, a contest between major Eugene figures emerged when Torrey campaigned for his old job, while Piercy campaigned to keep it. Piercy won, narrowly.

In Eugene, more contests have been settled at the primary level than in the general; usually one candidate is able to collect the 50% of the vote needed to settle it in the first go-round.

The next regularly scheduled elections in Eugene will be the May 12, 2012, Primary Election and the November 6, 2012, General Election. Open positions include Mayor, City Council Wards 1, 2, 7 and 8, and EWEB Commission Wards 1 and 8, Wards 2 and 3, and Wards 6 and 7 (a single commissioner represents two wards). The city has a mayor and manager approach to administration.

November 2010

Ward 3	Alan Zelenka	3,827	97.67%
Ward 4	George Polling	4,339	98.52%
Ward 5	Mike Clark	4,858	98.37%
Ward 6	Pat Farr	4,869	97.18%

Clark and Farr has primary contests, but won them in landslides.

November 2008

Mayor	Kitty Piercy	40,870	50.83%
	Jim Torrey	39,232	48.79%
Ward 1	George Brown		
Ward 2	Betty L. Taylor		
Ward 7	Andrea Ortiz		
Ward 8	Chris Pryor		

Salem

Marion County. Population 154,637 (3rd). Mayor Anna Peterson.

Salem uses a council-manager governing system, electing its mayor for more limited administrative functions – and giving the mayor, though the only one elected citywide, just a two-year term. The seven councilors (who serve four-year terms) are elected from wards. In May 2012 the city elects a mayor and councilors for wards 1, 3, 5 and 7.

Janet Taylor served as mayor for eight years, opting out in 2010. That year Anna Peterson defeated (51.32%) in the primary Chuck Bennett (48.32%).

The non-affiliateds

The third largest political group in Oregon – after Democrats and Republicans – are the non-group, the non-affiliated voters.

The per-capita largest contingent of NA's is in Umatilla County, and the smallest (per capita) in Lake. Overall, however, NAs tend to be larger in percentage in more Democratic counties (Multnomah, Hood River, Benton, Clatsop, Lincoln, Columbia and Washington are all above the state average).

(These numbers are from February 2012, except Yamhill's numbers, which were drawn from the September 2011 registration for the first chart, and not factored into the second.)

	Democratic	Republican	Non-Aff	Non-Aff	Total
Umatilla	28.63%	40.74%	7,682	24.08%	31,902
Hood River	42.94%	27.39%	2,698	23.83%	11,320
Morrow	29.37%	41.09%	1,115	23.33%	4,780
Lincoln	43.40%	27.54%	6,136	23.11%	26,552
Washington	39.88%	31.82%	61,309	23.08%	265,592
Multnomah	54.54%	16.50%	92,940	22.46%	413,775
Clatsop	42.13%	29.85%	4,447	22.17%	20,060
Malheur	23.30%	50.56%	2,710	22.12%	12,250
Wasco	38.67%	33.76%	2,899	21.85%	13,265
Baker	26.86%	46.11%	2,173	21.46%	10,125
Benton	44.52%	28.44%	10,521	21.37%	49,223
Columbia	42.40%	30.39%	5,852	21.26%	27,523
OREGON	40.82%	31.80%	428,368	21.20%	2,020,281
Yamhill*	34.04%	38.73%	10,500	21.09%	49,779
Deschutes	32.98%	38.35%	19,333	21.09%	91,656
Josephine	28.93%	42.62%	10,185	20.85%	48,857
Linn	33.59%	39.35%	12,634	20.79%	60,763
Lane	44.62%	28.03%	42,132	20.64%	204,103
Clackamas	38.61%	35.41%	43,633	20.32%	214,782
Jackson	34.56%	38.28%	23,467	20.25%	115,883
Tillamook	41.33%	32.99%	2,884	20.11%	14,343
Marion	36.70%	37.53%	28,921	19.92%	145,158
Polk	35.20%	40.13%	7,875	19.68%	40,015
Union	28.81%	45.55%	2,970	19.57%	15,176
Jefferson	32.44%	41.24%	1,832	19.57%	9,363
Coos	38.76%	35.50%	6,649	19.48%	34,140
Gilliam	29.05%	45.76%	234	19.26%	1,215
Curry	32.17%	41.23%	2,648	19.23%	13,772